

Haverhill Urban District

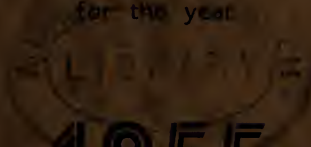
In the
Administrative County of West Suffolk



Annual Report

of the
Medical Officer of Health

for the year



1955

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Haverhill Urban District for the year 1955.

The population of Haverhill again shows the customary small but steady increase.

Although there was a considerable fall in the birth-rate the figure when corrected for comparability remained slightly above that for England and Wales. The death rate also declined during the year and the adjusted figure of 10.6 compares favourably with that for the country as a whole.

None of the notifiable diseases reached epidemic proportions, but ten cases of scarlet fever were reported.

1955 was the first full year since the end of meat control, consequently more time was spent by your Sanitary Inspectors on meat inspection at the slaughterhouses.

It is gratifying to report that substantial progress was made with housing construction during the year.

I should like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee. My sincere thanks are due, too, to Mr. W. C. Blake, the Clerk of the Council, and Mr. P. T. Rake, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value	£22,614
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£84 5s. 10d.
Rates	£1 4s. 3d.

(County Rate 14/11, U.D.C. Rate 9/4)

Number of inhabited houses	1,669
Estimated Population... ..	4,220
Census, 1951	4,096

The industrial activities are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Other factories produce ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins and marquees are also manufactured. A firm manufacturing telecommunication equipment which commenced operations last year are now proceeding with the erection of a new factory. A firm of Essence manufacturers are also proceeding with the erection of a new factory. The processing of animal feeding stuffs is also carried out.

There are no industries or occupations that are likely to have a prejudicial effect upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The Town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly on Fridays.

SECTION B.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year)

Live Births :

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(43) 29	(32) 29	(75) 58
Illegitimate	(2) 2	(2) 3	(4) 5

Totals ...	(45) 31	(34) 32	(79) 63
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Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	(18.9)	14.9
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(19.3)	15.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	(15.2)	15.0
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births	(5.2%)	8.6%

Still Births :

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	(—) 1	(2) 1	(2) 2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	(—) —	(1) —	(1) —
Totals				...	(—) 1	(3) 1	(3) 2

Deaths :

	Total	Male	Female	
	(62) 59	(30) 25	(32) 34	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	...	...	...	(14.9) 14.0
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	...	...	...	(11.3) 10.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	...	...	...	(11.3) 11.7
Deaths resulting from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion				Nil.

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ...	(4) —	(3) —	(1) —
Illegitimate ...	(1) —	(1) —	(—) —
Totals ...	(5) —	(4) —	(1) —

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

Deaths per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	(63.6) —
Deaths per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) ...	...	...	(25.5) 24.9

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Cancer (all types) ...	(9) 9	(4) 5	(13) 14
Diabetes ...	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Vascular Lesions			
of the nervous system	(2) 3	(10) 9	(12) 12
Heart Disease ...	(3) 8	(7) 6	(10) 14
Pneumonia ...	(3) 0	(3) 3	(6) 3
Bronchitis ...	(2) 0	(0) 0	(2) 0
Influenza ...	(0) 1	(0) 0	(0) 1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	(1) 0	(0) 0	(1) 0
Motor Vehicle Accidents...	(0) 0	(0) 0	(0) 0
Other Accidents ...	(0) 0	(0) 1	(0) 1
Suicide ...	(1) 0	(0) 0	(1) 0
Homicide and Operations of War ...	(0) 0	(1) 0	(1) 0
Other and ill-defined diseases ...	(9) 6	(7) 8	(16) 14
Total ...	(30) 27	(32) 32	(62) 59

Adjusted Birth and Death Rates for the last five years :

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Birth Rate	13.9	16.4	13.5	19.3	15.2
Death Rate	11.2	15.0	10.8	11.3	10.6

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

There are no alterations to report in any of the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local authorities).
- (b) Mr. P. T. Rake, M.B.E., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.
- (c) Mr. T. J. P. Hendry, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., R.P., Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

Hospitals :

There are no Hospitals within the area.

Ambulance Facilities :

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home :

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties.

Infant Welfare :

A welfare clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :

The Waterworks are situated in Camps Road on the West side of the Town, the floor level of the old pump house is 279.50 feet above Ordnance Datum, the new pump house floor level is 274 feet above O.D. The supply is obtained from below the chalk stratum and consists of a well 7 feet in diameter, 103 feet deep with two headings each 25 feet long running North and South; there are three boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from the surface level, one through the South heading 10½ inch diameter and another 18 inch diameter through the North heading to a depth of 350 and 360 feet respectively from surface level.

A test pump when the 18 inch bore was sunk in 1944 showed an ample yield of water up to 26,500 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below the surface level.

Pumping Machinery:

The water is raised from the well by three throw pumps in duplicate (suction levels 100 feet below surface level) and from one of the boreholes by a reciprocating type borehole pump (suction level 175 feet below surface level); each delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. Power is obtained from 24 b.h.p. Crossley Diesel Oil Engines in duplicate.

In 1951 a verticle spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the other borehole, this raises approximately 15,000 gallons per hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

All water is chlorinated either by liquid or gaseous chlorine.

Water from the pumps is conveyed to a 150,000 gallon reservoir with a top water level of 350 feet above O.D. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated or has sufficient capacity to supply future development and elevated and increased storage will have to be provided at some time in the future.

Number of dwelling houses connected with the mains:

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1661
(b) Outside the area...	...	...	...	19

Length of mains 9½ miles

Number of houses not connected to the mains:

(a) Within reach	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Not within reach	...	...	...	...	8

The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses) 4.6%

Purity of the Water:

Frequent samples are sent for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations. There has been little or no variation from the standard type of report reproduced here. The report shows no tendency to plumbo-solvency.

The following is a copy of a Chemical and Bacteriological examination of a sample of water by the

Counties Public Health Laboratories,
Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

Chemical Results in parts per million.

Appearance—Bright with very few mineral particles.

Turbidity—Less than 3.

Colour—Nil.

Odour—Nil.

p.h.—7.1.

Free Carbon Dioxide—35.

Electric Conductivity—830.

Total Solids—605.

Chlorine present as Chloride—41.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—285

Hardness: Total 450. Carbonate—285. Non-Carbonate—165
 Nitrate Nitrogen—1.8. Nitrite Nitrogen—less than 0.01.
 Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.000. Oxygen absorbed—0.20
 Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000. Residual Chlorine—Absent.
 Metals—Iron 0.03 Copper—less than 0.03. Other metals absent.
 Fluorine—0.5.

Bacteriological Results.

Number of Colonies developing on

Agar per ml....	...	...	1 day at 37°C. 0	2 days at 37°C. 0	3 days at 20°C. 0
			Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	—	100 ml.	0 per ml.		
Bact. Coli (type 1) ...	—	100 ml.	0 per ml.		
Cr. Welchii Reaction	—	100 ml.			

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from negligible traces of iron and copper. The water is very hard in character but is free from any excessive content of mineral and saline constituents. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(signed) ROY HOATHER,
 for Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Water Charges :

The charges for water are 1/5 per 1,000 gallons with reductions for bulk supplies.

1/8d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10/- per annum.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells 1951 to 1955 inclusive:—

1951	{	Maximum level, May ...	...	208.75ft. above O.D.		
	{	Minimum level, January	...	197.00ft.	„	„
1952	{	Maximum level, April ...	...	204.34ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, October	...	195.50ft.	„	„
1953	{	Maximum level, March	...	203.40ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, January	...	195.60ft.	„	„
1954	{	Maximum level, May ...	...	204.00ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, January	...	197.50ft.	„	„
1955	{	Maximum level, April ...	...	201.50ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, December	...	190.50ft.	„	„

The average daily consumption of water per head was 38 gallons.

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years, as compared with 1955;—

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
JAN.	2.08	1.23	0.97	1.90	2.07	1.38
FEB.	1.55	1.97	1.39	0.88	3.53	3.49
MAR.	1.15	2.09	0.50	2.80	3.30	0.45
APRIL	0.44	0.25	1.94	1.19	3.07	1.73
MAY	2.71	2.46	1.79	0.94	2.51	2.07
JUNE	2.62	2.26	2.75	1.47	1.57	1.05
JULY	0.86	3.33	2.11	0.88	0.98	3.07
AUG.	0.72	4.17	1.90	3.14	2.88	1.70
SEPT.	2.14	1.27	1.55	2.46	2.78	3.02
OCT.	4.58	2.28	2.87	2.05	1.08	0.57
NOV.	0.64	3.32	1.13	3.79	3.87	4.07
DEC.	1.97	2.28	0.81	2.36	1.56	1.37
Totals	21.46	26.91	19.71	23.86	29.20	23.97

Snow or rain was recorded on 134 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m., October 21st; when 1.73 inches was recorded. The greatest rainfall for one month was in October when 4.58 inches was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 21.46 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath:

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the town, the dimensions are 75ft. by 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 12/- for Adult Season ticket holders and 6/- for Juniors, 9d. for Adults and 4d. for Juniors admission. 7 Adult and 158 Junior Season tickets were sold. In addition 6,319 Adults and 7,223 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for the use of schools during the Summer term.

The increase in numbers from the previous year was due to the very fine weather conditions.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the East side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 7 acres of land, all underdrained ; 3 acres are terraced.

The pumping plant consists of Diesel Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the sewer ...	1616
Number of dwelling houses not connected to the sewer	53
(None of which is within reach of the sewer).	

House Scavenging :

Collections are made weekly from about 1695 Premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused pit.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections	752
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(The above inspections are divided into)

(1) Inspection of houses under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954	150
(2) Inspection of Food premises	400
(3) Inspection of Factories	202

There were also a number of inspections made under the Pests Act 1949.

Number of Statutory Notices	3
Number of Informal Notices	27

This has been the first full year since the ending of meat control and has entailed a greater amount of time spent in the inspection of meat. The following is the list of animals killed and inspected :

No. of Pigs	4008
No. of Lambs... ..	83
No. of Calves	4
The total of food condemned (including tinned food) ...	3192lbs.
Shrimps ...	3 gallons

Housing :

During the year 16 3-bedroomed houses, 24 2-bedroomed houses, 10 2-bedroomed bungalows, 16 2-bedroomed flats, 6 other flats (part of corner blocks) and 2 shops were completed on the Parkway Estate. A further 14 3-bedroomed houses, 14 2-bedroomed houses, 4 2-bedroomed bungalows, 2 1-bedroomed bungalows, 4 2-bedroomed flats and 6 corner block flats and 7 garages were under construction.

The Council now own :—

318	3-bedroom houses
86	2-bedroom houses
26	2-bedroom bungalows
16	1-bedroom bungalows
32	2-bedroom flats
6	corner block flats
16	Duplex flats
10	pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
21	other houses purchased by the Council
2	shops
21	garages

Total 531 + 2 shops + 21 garages

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1955 as shown in the following table :—

TABLE I.

		.45	.46	.47	.48	.49	.50	.51	.52	.53	.54	.55
Diphtheria	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	10	3	—	—	—	4	4	4	1	—	10
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pnerperal pyrexia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	2	11	1	251	—	—	31	7	136	28	4
Whooping cough	—	4	1	5	3	44	13	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	...	14	21	2	256	3	50	49	12	138	28	15

No deaths resulted from any form of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Syphilitic disease, Whooping-cough, Poliomyelitis or Measles.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1-2		1			3	1		
3-4		1		1				
5-9	2	5						
10-14								
15-24								
25+								
Unknown	1							
TOTALS ..	3	7		1	3	1		

SECTION G. TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at end of year	10	10	20	1	1	2	22
No. of cases added during the year	3	1	4	—	—	—	4

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	6	1	3		1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	8			2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	2			3
TOTAL		51	11	3		

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10						10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL	60						60

Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork:

39 persons are recorded as doing out-work. All are employed on the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

